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A True and Faithful

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ACCOUNT

OF THE

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ENTRY

AND

RECEPTION

OF

Three Extraordinary

Irish Ambassadors:

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Sundry Useful PARTICULARS
Thereunto relating.

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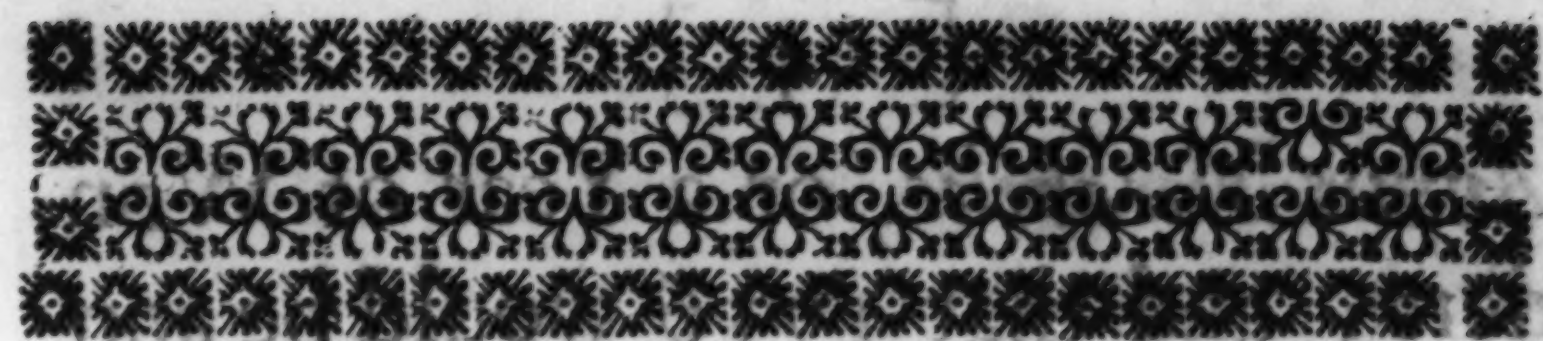
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A True and Faithful
ACCOUNT
OF THE
ENTIRETY
AND
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of the
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Sundry Useful Particulars
Thereunto relating.

LONDON:
Printed for Robert Newman, at the Crown
in Coventry, 1753. (Printed 3d)



A True and Faithful

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Entry and Reception

OF

Three Extraordinary *Irish*

AMBASSADORS, &c.

Although *Regiomontanus* had the Honour of predicting the Year 1588 to be the grand Climacterick of the World; yet certain it is, the true Original Author of this was the famous *Nobertus Scwartzens*; the same, who likewise foretold the Year 1666 would be

Annus Mirabilis, or a Year of Wonders; and that 1716 would be another *Sæculum Pyrrhæ*, or Season of Prodigies. And we find he was not a truer Prophet in either of the former Instances, than he hath proved in the latter; since no Time in the Memory of Man hath afforded so many strange and wonderful Sights, both of Foreign and Native Growth, as this present Year of our Lord, in this our renowned Island of *Great Britain*.

Notwithstanding the thing be so, yet I will be bold to affirm, with due Deference however to those of a contrary Opinion, that of all other Sights, that which happened at St. *James's* Palace and *Somerset-House* on the 10th of *April* last, exceedeth both in the Dignity of the Parties therein concerned, the Novelty of the Spectacle, and likewise the Conduct,
Gal-

Gallantry, and Magnificence where-
with the whole was transacted. That
which I mean, and which hath de-
servedly attracted the Eyes, and
employed the Tongues and Pens of
the *Learned World*, will be easily
guessed by any discerning Reader to
be the so much celebrated *Entry* and
Reception of the Three *Irish* Ambas-
sadors from *Dublin*; or to speak
more properly, from the University
there founded, and *now* exceeding-
ly flourishing, and likely long to
flourish.

The Names of these Three are
Dr. *Pratt*, Provost of the College,
Dr. *Barckley*, and Dr. *Howard*, Two
Fellows thereof.

I am not ignorant that it hath born
a Dispute among the Nice, per-
haps too nice *Connoisseurs*, or Preten-
ders, whether Dr. *Barckley* were to
be deemed one of the *Ambassadors*;
it

it being objected, that he did not come over directly and on purpose and *Express* upon this Errand, as did the other Two. But to his great Comfort the most eminent Virtuoso, Member of the Royal Society, the Honourable Mr. R—rts, having discuss'd the Point amply, and consulted *Wiquefort* and others upon it, hath decided it in Dr. *Barckley's* Favour. And likewise the Reason of the Thing proves the Objection to be altogether frivolous: For in the first place, it is a common Practice for an Ambassador to lie Leiger at the Courts of Stranger Princes, under the general Appellation of *Minister* from such a Prince or such a State, without assuming the Stile and Character of an *Ambassador*; as is evident in the Case of the Earl of *St—rs*; and that this doth not hinder, but he may afterwards take
upon

upon him that Character, is plain from the same Instance, his Lordship being every Day upon the Eve of declaring himself Ambassador, as we are inform'd by the *Flying Post* and *Daily Courant*, who surely could not be guilty of so great a Mistake, in a Matter of such Importance, if there were any Impropriety in the Thing.

And again, the Gentleman before us, about whom the Question is, had the Honour to be next the other Two, both in the Presence-Chamber and at the Feast-Table; and, which puts the Matter out of all doubt, was stiled in the *Gazette* of *Tuesday* the 17th of *April*, one of the *Deputies*; and therefore whoever goeth about *maliciously* to deprive him of the Name and Reputation of an Ambassador, doth commit an Act of great Injustice, and taketh away
from

from him that, to which he hath as clear and equitable a Right, as either of the others.

This Point, wherein the Honour of the Embassy is so much concern'd, being settled, it is high time to come to that of the *Entry* and *Reception*. And here I cannot sufficiently lament, that notwithstanding all the Search I have made, and the most diligent Pursuit to trace out this whole Affair, I have not been able to inform my self how, in what Order, Vehicle, or Procession they made their Cavalcade towards the Court. Sure it was not consistent with their Character to creep in by any Back-door; and yet how they could make a *Publick* Entry and the *Publick* know nothing of the Matter, is utterly beyond my Understanding. So this being to me an indissoluble Knot, I must leave it to some future Com — er
to

to penetrate into these minute and imperceptible Seeds of Secrets, with the Report whereof, I hope the World will at some time or other be highly enlightned.

The first Place therefore that I hear of our Ambassadors, is the Robing-Room at St. *James's* Palace; that is to say, a Room where they put on their Robes prepared for the Solemnity: For this much I have come to the Knowledge of, that they did not put on their extraordinary Habits before they came to Court; whether it were that they feared the wise Observation that *the greatest Persons in Company are usually the most bespotted*, might have been verified on them as they passed through the Streets; or that it might have assembled too great a Concourſe of Women and Children to see them dress'd in Scarlet, (for of

that Colour were their Ceremonial Habits) and that this might have brought a Scandal upon the Government, as if *the Church were in Danger*, when the *Red-Coats* had the upper Hand of the *Black Gown*.

Some Time and much Pains were spent to equip our Ambassadors; and it is not the least remarkable Circumstance of the whole, that in this Operation there happen'd not the least Misadventure, saving that a beautiful young Damofel, Miss *Mea—ws*, bolted into the Chamber just as the Gentlemen were — putting on their Gowns; which, as it put the Virgin into no little Confusion, so it extremely discomposed the Gentlemen, who were forced to summon all their Wisdom to recollect that Gravity, which was so suitable to the serious and important Parts they were to act.

This

This Ruffle being over, they were conducted through the Lodgings to a noble Room, where the Elder of the Three made his — a very quaint Harangue, replete with proper Conceits and pretty Turns of Wit. The Speech is in Print, and I hope will convince those among us, who give themselves Airs in laughing at Strangers, that *Irish Understandings* are not quite so contemptible as they would make Folks believe. Certainly, if the Grammar and *English*, and Sense had been a little better observed, the Orator might have challenged e'er a *Westminster-Boy*, or even any *Christ-Church-man* of them all, to produce higher Flights and Strains of Complement, or a prettier Piece of Poetical Prose.

I must not omit to mention, that upon entering the Presence-Chamber, three reverend and not rustick Bows were made by each of the Ambassadors. When the Speech and Answer were over, they retired in Form, having religiously observed, during the whole Ceremony, at their advancing and retreating, to keep their Faces always towards the Canopy of State; lest if they should have done otherwise, People would have said, they turned their Backs upon their Pr—ce.

Hereupon they were re-conducted to the Robing-Room, where they waited not above Three Hours to draw Breath and prepare for the ensuing Part of the Ceremony; and then they were introduced to her—who received them very graciously.

Among

Among the numerous Throng of Gazers and Hearers was the famous Mr. G—ge, who, as the World believes, was converted from the Errors and Superstitions of Popery by a Set of *Dutch dapple-grey Horses*. Nor is the Report very unlikely; for although those Horses may not have the Faculty of Speech, much less be able to enter into the Depths of the Controversy between the Protestants and Papists; yet I cannot see why Horses may not make a Man a Protestant, considering what Asses those are, who are the Teachers of Popery.

I know it hath been invidiously given out by some *evil-minded Persons*, that this Gentleman was the Introducer of our Ambassadors. But how is that possible, that one who hath openly betray'd a *Contempt for the Souls of Women*, and
was

was a Papist, as it were, but Yesterday, should have to Day such Interest at Court? Or who, that hath the least Spark of Ingenuity, but must look upon this to be a fabulous Apocryphal Point of History?

Next they were led to kiss the Hands of the Three little—— who, to their Astonishment, gave such Answers and ask'd such Questions, as the Doctors themselves would have done in their Places.

From the Palace of St. *James's* the Ambassadors were to be conducted to *Somerset-House*: And now it was they were to be elevated to the highest Pitch of Human Grandeur. Well was it for them that they carried along with them a sufficient Stock of Humility by way of Poize; else how easily might their Heads have been turned in so nice

nice a Conjunction? The Secretary
 to the. — — had a Coach or Berlin,
 I cannot exactly say which, ready
 for them: Into that they mounted;
 and here the Reader may better
 imagine than I describe, how over-
 flowing with Joy were their Hearts,
 in Contemplation of Honours re-
 ceived and Honours yet to come.
 But in them behold the uncertain
 State of sublunary Things! On
 a sudden, near Northumberland-
 House in the Strand, just where a
 new House is building, or an old
 one repairing, the Coach overturn'd,
 and down fell the Embassy. Ei-
 ther some Rogues of Jacobites ha-
 ving thrown Dust and Rubbish in
 the Way on purpose to cast an Af-
 front upon the Go—nt, or else the
 Coachman himself being of the
 Plot, as often we bring our worst
 Enemies from Home: Yet, as God
 would

would have it, no other Damage ensued, only that their Excellencies were thereby compelled to march it on Foot, puffing, sweating, and almost swearing, and now cover'd with Dust, as lately they were with Honours.

When their Excellencies arriv'd at *Somerset-House* they found the Guards on their Arms, the Court-Officers with their Staves ranged in Order, to welcome such extraordinary Guests. They found a large Table spread with Variety of Delicacies: They were seated at the Head of the Table, with Lords, and Peers, and Senators beneath them. They fed plentifully, as Men not much accustomed to such Dainties; drank sufficiently, but with due Moderation and Abstinence; their Healths, and all other loyal ones ewnt round, intermix'd with facetious

tious Discourse from the L— C—. All this while their Excellencies comported themselves with great Decorum and Gravity : And whoever had seen them so placed, and so behaving themselves, in such comely seemly manner, would have been far from imagining, unless he were so informed, whence they came or who they were.

And here I cannot but let myself loose against all those Block-heads of Newsmongers, (the *Gazetteer* excepted) who have stupidly omitted to recount to us the several Particulars of this memorable Day, and this great Event. Whilst they overwhelm us with Stories of monstrous Fishes, strange Apparitions in the Sky, News from *Geneva*, *Norway*, *Germany*, and *Turkey*, that they should be wholly silent as to our Ambassadors, must

C

proceed

Proceed from something worse than Neglect, either from a Contempt of the ——— and the Go——nt.

What would Posterity have said of the present Age and our Authors, if they had come to learn, that in such a Year so extraordinary an Embassy had been sent, and from *Ireland* too, and yet find no Records of the Names of the Ambassadors, of what they said and did, and what was said and done to them? especially when they shall find so particular an Account of the Persons, Character, and Manners of the Four *Indian Kings*, who came hither but a few Years before our Ambassadors. In this case our Posterity must have thought, that all those noble *Genius's*, who have made such a Noise with their *Relations*, and *Accounts*, and *Histories* of the Lives and Deaths of Great Persons,

sons, were buried under the Ruins of *Grubstreet*.

And by the way give me leave to assert, that the *Irish* Embassy doth in no Degree give Place, if it be not superior, to that of *India*. It is true, this was composed of Kings, but, God knows, their Jurisdiction and the Extent of their Dominion were but inconsiderable. Moreover, they were Heathens, utter Strangers to polite Literature, and could not speak a Word of *English*; whereas our Ambassadors may in some Sense be said to have a Jurisdiction over the Three Kingdoms; forasmuch as several Persons from the several Quarters of the Two Islands, are under their Tutelage, and may be most properly called their Subjects. The Principals of our Ambassadors exercise a most Despotic Government in their Districts: They are restrain'd
C 2 by

by no *Habeas-Corpus* Acts, by no *Magna Charta's*, no *Triennial* Clogs, nor any Laws but their own Wills, and a few Rules called *Statutes*, the Interpretation whereof lieth solely in their own Breasts, and may be twin'd and twisted any way, as their Appetite for Gain or Rule directeth or inviteth.

Again, our Ambassadors are *Christians*, and therefore to be preferr'd to *Heathens*; I am also well assur'd they have a Smattering of Learning, and that they really understand the *English* Tongue, and can talk it, altho' a little vitiated with *Irishcisms*, and a certain *Irish* Tone not very grateful to the Ear: So that upon all of these Accounts they deserve a Place in *English* Story, at least as well as a few *Barbarians*.

I am indeed a good deal troubled that I am not enabled to proceed
fur-

further in this Account, to let the
 Reader know what hath befallen
 their Excellencies since their Exal-
 tation at *Somerset-House*. But their
 Guide the Secretary Mr. M— having
 been much immerfed in other Affairs,
 hath not, as far as I can learn, shewn
 the Town to them as yet, or them
 to the Town: However, as he is
 a young Gentleman of great Courte-
 sy and good Manners, especially to-
 wards Strangers, and as he loveth to
 divert himself and others, I cannot
 apprehend but he will take a proper
 Opportunity to lead about the Am-
 bassadors to see the Tombs, *Bedlam*,
 the *Lions*, the *Wax-work*, St. *Dun-*
stan's Clock, with such other Rarities
 as use to be the Entertainment of Fo-
 reigners travelling to this ancient and
 noble *Metropolis*: The Particulars
 whereof I hope soon to come to the
 Knowledge of, and that they may
 be

be the Subject of a Second, and no ignoble Part of this History.

In the mean time it may be proper to let the Curious know, that their Excellencies are to be *seen* any fair Day in the *Mall*, between the Hours of Ten and Two, or between Five and Eight in the Evening. And if the Weather chance to prove unseasonable for Walking, they are then at the said Hours, to be shewn at the *Smyrna* Coffee-House, the Owner whereof is their *English* Master, or in some other Place adjacent to, or not far from the *Court-Air*.



F I N I S.

